

FRESNO/KINGS/MADERA
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Manual Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number 535 Page 1 of 2
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References	Effective 01/01/92

I. POLICY

The protocols authorizing advanced life support prior to Base Hospital contact may be modified, by the order of a Base Hospital Physician, in response to an appropriate request from a private physician for "BLS only".

II. PURPOSE

There are situations where a private physician, based upon familiarity with the patient's condition, may desire that no advanced life support be initiated in the prehospital setting, or that a special destination be utilized. As State regulation allows prehospital personnel to function only under the direction of a Base Hospital Physician, the private physician's request may only be followed if the approval of a Base Hospital Physician is obtained. This procedure enables the mechanism for the private physician to have access to the EMS system for this purpose.

II. PROCEDURE

A. System Access

The private physician will discuss the patient's case with a Base Hospital Physician. If appropriate and approved by the Base Hospital Physician, the EMS Dispatcher will notify the responding ALS units of the issuance of a "BLS only" order by the specific Base Hospital and Base Hospital Physician.

B. Prehospital Operation

The responding paramedic will note the Base Hospital and Base Hospital Physician who issued the "BLS only" order. In "BLS only" situations, the EMT-Paramedic will perform a brief assessment and initiate transport as quickly as possible. ALS may be initiated prior to Base Hospital contact only if the patient has an obstructed airway or is in respiratory or cardiac arrest. All other ALS procedures prior to Base Hospital contact (for STAT patients) may not be initiated in a "BLS only" situation. If the patient is found to be unstable or in need of ALS intervention upon the EMT-Paramedics arrival, contact should

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be established with the Base Hospital which ordered the "BLS only" response. At that time, the Base Hospital Physician may order any therapy necessary for patient care.

In special circumstances (i.e., when no CPR is requested), the Base Hospital Physician should contact the EMT-Paramedic directly, prior to arrival on scene. The EMS Communications Center, upon issuing a "BLS only" order in this situation, will request the EMT-Paramedic to contact the Base Hospital Physician by radio prior to arrival on the scene.